

## VISIT TO LEEDS CITY VARIETIES THEATRE JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018



It was a snowy, very cold morning when 34 Forum members set off for Leeds.

We were looking forward to a backstage tour of the famous Leeds City Varieties Theatre home of 'The Good Old Days' television program which was so popular from the fifties to the eighties.

And how we enjoyed it! The Guides met us in the Bar where we had coffee and biscuits before setting off around the building.

We heard all about the history - It was built in 1865 as an adjunct to the White Swan Inn (dating from 1748) in Swan Street and the original interior is largely unaltered although there has recently been a grand restoration and refurbishment which has brought the theatre back to its former glory.

It was always a music hall and many famous artists have performed there over the years – these include Charlie Chaplin, Marie Lloyd and Houdini as well as Morecambe and Wise and Bruce Forsyth. We saw the dressing rooms and the Green Room as well as the flies and the stage.

Whilst we were on the stage, we were encouraged to sing by our member Barbara who led us in a rendition of 'My old man said follow the van'. There can't be too many people who can truly say they have sung on this famous stage!!



We are now hoping to be able to go to see a performance of 'The Good Old Days' which is still done twice a year (although no longer televised). All being well this should be in October 2018.

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and  
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